

**REMARKS**

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 5, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

***Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112***

Claims 3 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 3 as originally filed stated “wherein applying said radial force is selected to induce plastic deformation of at least an inner portion of the wall.” Applicants submit that the subject matter of claim 3 at the time of filing provides support for the current claim 3. Further, the Examiner states that the specification does not provide a description of what is meant by “plastic deformation.” Applicants submit that such a mechanical term of art needs no description to ascertain its meaning, which relates to types (e.g., plastic or elastic) of changes in shape of materials due to applied forces. Claim 23 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 3 and 23.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1-19, 23-29 and 54-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lauritzen* (6,662,876). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a method that includes “selecting a level of the radial force to increase the collapse resistance of the tubular independent of any constraining effects on the tubular.” At least paragraph [0018] of the present application provides support for amendments to claim 1 since by example collapse resistance increase occurs regardless of whether or not the tubular is first cemented in the bore. In contrast, *Lauritzen* discloses at col. 5, lines 10-15, that casing supporting a tubular (420) constrains the tubular to thereby enhance collapse resistance without any indication that unconstrained collapse

resistance of the tubular (420) is increased. In particular, constraining effects of the casing limit how the tubular taught in *Lauritzen* can deform upon collapse. This limitation to the deformation inhibits shape changes that occur with relative ease during collapse to thereby increase collapse resistance with respect to an unexpanded form of the tubular that is free as a result of being unconstrained to assume an elongated cross-section upon collapse.

Therefore, *Lauritzen* fails to teach, show or suggest each and every element of claim 1. Further, *Lauritzen* cannot anticipate claim 1 or any claim dependent thereon. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-19 and 23-29.

Claim 54 states that "the tubular experiences no diametric expansion as a result of the radial force applied by the bearing member." The Examiner references Figure 7 and column 6 of *Lauritzen* with respect to this limitation. However, *Lauritzen* teaches that "the expansion tool 100 is energized and radially expands (emphasis added) one or more sections 710 of the second tubular 540." Any radial expansion even if circumferentially incomplete is diametric expansion. Moreover, there is no indication that these one or more sections have any increase in collapse resistance.

Therefore, *Lauritzen* fails to teach, show or suggest each and every element of claim 54. Further, *Lauritzen* cannot anticipate claim 54 or claim 55 dependent thereon. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 54 and 55.

#### ***Statement of Common Ownership***

Applicant submits that the present application, Serial No. 10/618,419, and U.S. Patent No. 6,662,876 were commonly owned or subject to an obligation of assignment to Weatherford/Lamb, Inc. at the time the invention claimed in the present application was made.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lauritzen* in view of *Hempel*. (2,898,971). Claims 21, 22 and 56 stand rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lauritzen* in view of *Harrall* (SPE 2002). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As stated in the Statement of Common Ownership above, *Lauritzen* and the present invention were commonly owned at the time the present invention was made. Because the *Lauritzen* reference qualifies as prior art only under § 102(e) (the prior corresponding publication of *Lauritzen* is only 102(e) prior art too given the present priority date of invention), Applicants submit that, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), the reference is not available to preclude patentability under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of the obviousness rejections and allowance of the claims.

### **New Claim 58**

Claim 58 recites a method that includes “applying said radial force to further discrete zones of the wall, wherein the discrete zones are along a length of the tubular that has a wall with a continuous solid circumference at an inner surface engaged by the bearing member” and “selecting a level of the radial force to increase the collapse resistance of the tubular along the length.” At least the figure in the present application provides support for this limitation since it can be seen that a tubular (reference number 10) has a wall defining a continuous solid circumference at an inner surface that is engaged, as evidenced by uninterrupted cross-hatching. In contrast, *Lauritzen* discloses that a tubular (420) contacted by an expansion tool “has perforations 415 which may be slots.” Further, there is no mention in *Lauritzen* of any increase in collapse resistance of sections of the tubular without the perforations that may be expanded. Therefore, *Lauritzen* fails to teach, show or suggest each and every element of claim 58. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 58 and claim 59 dependent thereon.

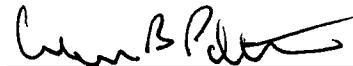
### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0122 for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Dated: September 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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